

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037013

TODEP 02

FOLL REPEAT CANBERRA 0984 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SINGAPORE

CINCPAC 20 FEB 74 QUOTE

O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0984

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, AS, US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S CALL ON DEPUTY PRIMIN-
DEFMIN BARNARD

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL CALLED ON DEPUTY PRIMIN-
DEFMIN BARNARD FEBRUARY 19. BARNARD REPORTED PRIMIN WHITLAM
HAD BEEN EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH HIS RECENT SEA SWING. BARNARD
ALSO EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME OF JANUARY
TALKS ON U.S. FACILITIES, AND ADDED THAT OUTCOME HAD BEEN
FAVORABLY RECEIVED IN AUSTRALIA. HE STATED GOA HAS NOT YET
DECIDED HOW TO HANDLE CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT AS HE HAS NOT HAD
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH PRIMIN. BARNARD HOPED TO
MINIMIZE DEBATE ON SUBJECT, AND PRITCHETT, WHO WAS ALSO
PRESENT, NOTED GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SUBMIT
SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENT FOR CONSIDERATION. AMBASSADOR GREEN
CONGRATULATED BARNARD ON HIS SKILLFUL HANDLING OF ISSUE IN
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AUSTRALIA.

2. ON DIEGO GARCIA, BARNARD STATED GOA WAS SOMEWHAT DISTRESSED IT HAD NOT HAD MORE ADVANCE NOTICE PRIOR TO USG PUBLIC RELEASE OF INTENTIONS TO ENLARGE FACILITY. DEFMIN STATED HE HAD SUCCEEDED, HE THOUGHT, IN "CONTAINING" PRIMIN'S REACTION BY POINTING OUT TO WHITLAM THAT GOA, GIVEN ITS POSTURE ON NOT CRITICIZING SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN, COULD NOT NOW TAKE ISSUE WITH U.S. BUILD-UP IN THAT AREA. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY EFFORTS TO IMPROVE POSTURE IN THIRD WORLD, AND SOME DOMESTIC POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS, OF NECESSITY TEMPERED AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDE ON DIEGO GARCIA ISSUE, BARNARD NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED VIEW PRIMIN WILL NOT HAVE MUCH DIFFICULTY IN HANDLING ISSUE TO BASIC SATISFACTION OF U.S. BOTH BARNARD AND SIR VICTOR SMITH, WHO WAS IN ATTENDANCE, EXPRESSED ENDORSEMENT OF U.S. DIEGO GARCIA PLANS AND ADVANTAGE TO AUSTRALIA IN MAINTAINING EQUILIBRIUM IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA.

3. REMAINDER OF INGERSOLL CALL DEVOTED TO REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND INGERSOLL'S IMPRESSIONS DURING RECENT VISIT. BARNARD EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AT INDONESIAN SITUATION, NOTING THAT DURING RECENT UNREST PRESIDENT SUHARTO WAS SUFFICIENTLY APPREHENSIVE TO HAVE NAMED HIS SUCCESSOR, I.E., INDONESIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, IN EVENT OF SUHARTO'S ASSASSINATION. BARNARD ADDED THAT GOA IS CONCERNED INDONESIA MUST HANDLE SITUATION CORRECTLY IF AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE SUPPORT TO GOI IS TO BE SUSTAINED.

4. OTHER GENERAL SUBJECTS COVERED INCLUDED THAILAND, KHMER AND VIETNAMESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND PRC ATTITUDES TOWARD SEA.

GREEN
BQUOTE KISSINGER

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